



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, more than one million Virginians over the age of sixty currently live in Virginia, and the population of older Virginians will increase to more than two million, or one quarter of Virginia's population, in the next twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Virginians are indebted to previous generations of citizens who worked to establish and maintain many of the traditions and values upon which our Commonwealth and nation were founded; and

WHEREAS, many older citizens are vulnerable targets for abuse, and elder abuse occurs in families and communities of all social, economic and racial backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, victims of elder abuse often experience psychological and physical trauma that negatively impacts Virginia's families and communities both emotionally and financially; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse prevention programs throughout Virginia provide vital services to older Virginians including crisis hotlines, emergency shelter, support programs, public education, intervention and legal advocacy; and

WHEREAS, during the month of May, all Virginians are encouraged to remember victims of elder abuse and their families, to promote the programs and organizations that serve them, and to participate in community efforts to improve the safety and well-being of all people throughout our Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize May 2006 as **ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Timothy M. Kaine.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Katherine F. Hanley.

Secretary of the Commonwealth